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Division of Adult Institutions (DAI) Position Regarding Volunteers Providing Material Support to Inmates

Reference: *DOC Executive Directive 16, Fraternization Policy*
DAI 309.06.03, Volunteers, Pastoral Visitors, Program Guests and Interns

Some community ministries provide financial/material support or comfort items through pastoral care. DAI policies, however, prohibit volunteers - including pastoral visitors - from giving inmates anything of material value (e.g. money, stamps, food items, clothing, etc.). This is permitted only in very limited and rare circumstances, and requires pre-approval of a DOC-2270 Fraternization Policy Exception Request specifying the allowable support. DAI's reasons for rejecting customary community ministry practices and prohibiting financial/material support to inmates are:

IN THE COMMUNITY	WITHIN PRISONS
Individuals may approach a church in a truly desperate state – both physical and spiritual. Clergy may need to address immediate physical wellbeing before addressing spiritual needs.	Immediate survival needs of inmates (housing, clothes, food, medical care, etc.) are met by the resources of the prison facility. So spiritual care is the primary need.
Reasons ministries may provide individual financial/material support: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) tradition of hospitality2) invite participation3) comfort-giving4) rapport-building5) demonstrating compassion6) reduce guilt about the situation7) clergy's personal preference8) personal friendship	Financial/material support cannot meet inmates' deeply personal spiritual needs, such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) coping with incarceration2) separation from family3) guilt4) drug/alcohol abuse5) interpersonal relationships6) trauma history7) rehabilitation efforts

Clergy who provide financial/material support to inmates may want to consider the ***American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC) - Code of Ethics***, wherein Principle III – Client Relationships, subparagraph E. states:

“We recognize the trust placed in and unique power of the therapeutic relationship. While acknowledging the complexity of some pastoral relationships, we avoid exploiting the trust and dependency of clients. We avoid those dual or multiple relationships with clients which could impair our professional judgment, compromise the integrity of the treatment, and/or use the relationship for our own gain. A multiple relationship occurs when a pastoral counselor is in a professional role with a person and 1) at the same time is in another role with the same person, 2) at the same time is in a relationship with a person closely associated with or related to the person with whom the pastoral counselor has the professional relationship, or 3) promises to enter into another relationship in the future with the person or a person closely associated with or related to the person. In instances when dual or multiple relationships are unavoidable, particularly within congregations or in family or couples counseling, we take reasonable steps to protect the clients and are responsible for setting clear and appropriate boundaries.”

DOC experience suggests that clergy financial/material support may actually detract from inmate spiritual growth and undermine offender rehabilitation.

- 1) The dual/multiple roles of pastoral care-giver, resource provider and/or friend can undermine the therapeutic relationship.
- 2) Inmates may be motivated by financial/material support, rather than spiritual care.
- 3) Recipients may try to manipulate or solicit further financial/material support.
- 4) Offenders may not learn non-manipulative, pro-social interpersonal interactions, leading to future dysfunctional relationships.
- 5) Inmates may not develop healthy coping skills to replace emotional manipulation.
- 6) Receiving resources from outside the facility can become a disincentive to follow rules, participate in criminogenic treatment programs, obtain employment, earn money and learn to take pride in one's work.
- 7) Inmates may not learn valuable problem-solving, planning and patience skills.
- 8) Those receiving support may not adequately prepare for community reentry if they depend upon others to provide resources.

Clergy who provide financial/material support to selected inmates may unintentionally create facility security risks.

- 1) Clergy may become a target for solicitation from other inmates.
- 2) Inmates receiving support may become targets for extortion or strong-arming by other inmates.
- 3) Disparities between inmates who do/don't receive support can create power differential, tension and conflict.

Donations to support prison chapel programs are welcomed. Facilities often accept in-kind donations which meet DAI policy specifications, as well as funds to support congregational ministry and general use items.

Ministries wanting to provide individual inmates with financial/material support may prefer to have inmate contacts via the visitor list rather than pastoral visitor privileges. Those on the inmate's approved visitor list may deposit money in the inmate's accounts.

Please notify facility staff if you wish to withdraw from active DAI volunteer or pastoral visitor status. The inmate may then pursue addition to his/her visiting list with form DOC-21AA – Visitor Questionnaire.